

Claims:

1. An orthodontic patient set-up tray comprising:
a first section having at least one receptacle for receiving an orthodontic appliance;
5 a second section having at least one receptacle for receiving an orthodontic appliance;
and
a coupling movably connecting the first section to the second section to enable relative
movement between the first section and the second section.
- 10 2. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 1 wherein the coupling is a
releasable coupling for selectively disconnecting the first section from the second section.
3. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 2 wherein the coupling
comprises a hinge having a pin.
- 15 4. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 2 wherein the coupling
comprises a tongue and a groove.
5. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 4 wherein the first section and
20 the second section each have a longitudinal axis, and wherein the tongue and the groove each
have respective longitudinal axes that extend in directions perpendicular to the longitudinal
axes of the first and second sections.
6. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 2 wherein the coupling is a slide
25 coupling.
7. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 2 wherein the coupling has a
snap-fit construction.
- 30 8. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 2 wherein the coupling
comprises a line of weakness.

9. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 1 wherein the coupling pivotally connects the first section to the second section.

10. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 9 wherein the coupling comprises a hinge with a first section and a second section, and wherein the hinge includes a removable pin for selectively disconnecting the first section and the second section.

11. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 9 wherein the coupling comprises a line of weakness.

12. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 9 wherein the first section and the second section each have a longitudinal axis, wherein the longitudinal axes of the first section and the second section extend in generally parallel directions, and wherein the coupling connects the first section and the second section for pivotal movement in an arc about an axis generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axes of the first section and the second section.

13. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 1 wherein the coupling comprises a tongue and a groove.

14. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 13 wherein the tongue is constructed to fit into the groove in snap-fit relation.

15. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 13 wherein the first section and the second section each have a longitudinal axis, wherein the longitudinal axes of the first section and the second section extend in generally parallel directions, and wherein the groove extends in a direction generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axes of the first section and the second section.

16. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 15 wherein the first and second sections generally extend in a flat reference plane, and wherein the tongue is constructed to fit into the groove by relatively moving the first section and the second section toward each other in directions perpendicular to the reference plane.

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17. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 1 wherein the receptacle comprises an opening.

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18. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 1 wherein each receptacle includes means for releasably retaining a container that contains an orthodontic appliance.

19. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 18 wherein the receptacle comprises an opening, and wherein the means comprises a friction fit.

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20. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 1 wherein the set-up tray includes at least one container that is received in one of the receptacles.

21. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 20 wherein each container contains an orthodontic appliance.

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22. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 21 wherein each container also includes an adhesive in contact with the appliance.

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23. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 1 wherein the first section and the second section each include fourteen receptacles.

24. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 1 and including a third section and a second coupling movably connecting the third section to the first section.

25. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 24 wherein the first section has ten receptacles corresponding to non-molar teeth of the patient, and wherein the second section and the third section each include four receptacles corresponding to the molar teeth of the patient.

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26. An orthodontic patient set-up tray comprising a substrate having two spaced-apart projections and a receptacle located between the projections, each projection including an overhanging section that provides an undercut region adjacent the receptacle for releasably retaining a container that contains an orthodontic appliance.

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27. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 26 wherein the substrate includes at least one additional projection, and wherein at least one additional projection includes an overhanging section.

15 28. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 26 wherein each projection includes an additional overhanging section that provides an undercut region adjacent an additional receptacle.

20 29. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 26 wherein the tray includes a first section and a second section, wherein the receptacle is located on the first section, wherein the second section includes an additional receptacle, and wherein the tray includes a coupling movably connecting the first section to the second section to enable relative movement between the first section and the second section.

25 30. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 29 wherein the coupling is a releasable coupling for selectively disconnecting the first section from the second section.

31. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 30 wherein the coupling comprises a hinge.

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32. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 26, and further including a container received in the receptacle and an orthodontic appliance received in the container.

5 33. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 26 wherein the projections comprise elongated rails.

34. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 33 wherein the rails extend in directions generally parallel to each other.

10 35. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 33 and including a stop for limiting movement of the container.

36. An orthodontic patient set-up tray according to claim 35 wherein at least one rail includes an end portion that provides the stop.

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